



TNRCC REGULATORY GUIDANCE

Petroleum Storage Tank Division
RG-018
May 1996

SUBJECT: Leaking Storage Tanks— What Should I Do?

If your storage tank is leaking, this is what you should do:

Act on Hazards

- Evacuate the area immediately if there is a fire or explosion hazard.
- Extinguish open flames (No Smoking).
- Take the leaking system out of service.
- Turn off electrical equipment if safe to do so.
- Stop any immediate threats or impacts to human health and safety. Call the local fire department and request a test for explosive conditions. The fire department can help you decide what other actions or precautions you should take to eliminate hazards.

Report the Leak or Spill

- Report all spills, leaks or suspected leaks.
- Contact the local TNRCC regional office in your area within 24 hours of discovering or suspecting a leak or spill. A list of all TNRCC regional offices is included inside.

Find the Leak

- Use your senses--do you see or smell it?
- Check product pumps for proper operation.
- Check inventory records for product losses.
- If necessary, have the tanks and lines professionally tested.
- Check tank pit observation wells for product.

Stop the Release

- If the piping is leaking, discontinue use of the dispenser serviced with the leaking piping.
- If the tank is leaking, remove the product from the tank.

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- Do not put any more product in the system.

Begin Cleanup

- Contact the TNRCC for guidance regarding the cleanup of the spill or release.
- Air emissions must have prior TNRCC registration.
- Contact professionals to help you clean up the leak or spill. Please refer to the PST pamphlet titled *Selecting an Environmental Consultant* and the rules in Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 334, Subchapter J, for the requirements for consultants. Single copies may be obtained free of charge by contacting the TNRCC's Agency Publications at (512) 239-0028.
- Comply with TNRCC directives and reporting requirements.

File Report

- A release report (form number: TNRCC-0621) should be filed with the TNRCC within 20 days of discovery or suspicion of a leak or spill to document all initial actions taken to investigate, stop and clean up the leak or spill.